

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 CPR-02 /108 W

----- 017525

R 051147Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2480

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8934

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SK, IN

SUBJECT: SIKKIM

1. THE CHOGYAL BLINKED. SHORTLY AFTER WE SENT OFF REFTTEL, HE ANNOUNCED HE HAD DECIDED TO ASSENT TO THE SIKKIM CONSTITUTION BILL EVEN THOUGH HE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME SECTIONS. THE FORMAL SIGNING TOOK PLACE JULY 4 AND INDIAN FONSEC KEWAL SINGH, WHO HAD FLOWN TO GANGTOK, WAS ONE OF THE OBSERVERS.

2. THE CHOGYAL SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THE SIKKIM CONGRESS FOR PROGRESS AND DEMOCRACY IN SIKKIM AND CONGRESS LEADER KAZI LHENDUP DORJI RECIPROCATED THESE SENTIMENTS. THE PALACE HELD A RECEPTION, THE INDIAN POLITICAL OFFICER HELD A RECEPTION, AND THEN EVERYONE WENT HOME.

3. COMMENT: THIS MARKS THE END OF THIS PHASE OF THE CHOGYAL VS THE SIKKIM CONGRESS. WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT FURTHER CLASHES IN THE FUTURE ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. MRS. GANDHI ASSURED THE CHOGYAL THAT INDIA BELIEVED THE CHOGYAL HAD A LEGITIMATE ROLE TO PLAY AS TITULAR HEAD OF STATE (KEWAL

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SINGH CONFIRMED THIS TO THE PRESS WHEN HE WAS IN GANGTOK).

THE CHOGYAL APPARENTLY DECIDED HIS OPTIONS TO QUIT WERE REALLY NOT PARTICULARLY INTIMIDATING TO THE INDIAN GOVT., AND THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD ALSO NOT SERVE HIS OWN INTERESTS AT THIS TIME. THE CHOGYAL MAY HOPE FOR DIVISION WITHIN THE SIKKIM CONGRESS AND A RESTORATION OF HIS INFLUENCE AMONG BOTH THE NATIVE SIKKIM MINORITY GROUPS, AND POSSIBLY EVEN FOR SOME INFLUENCE AMONG NEPALI ELEMENTS IN HE SIKKIM CONGRESS.

4. THE EMBASSY, INCIDENTALLY, RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CABLE ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE CHOGYAL AND GYALMO DATELINE GANGTOK, JULY 4: "OUR SINCERE GOOD WISHES ON THE AMERICAN NATIONAL DAY. PLEASE CONVEY OUR WARMEST GREETINGS AND FELICITATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ON THIS OCCASION." THE EMBASSY WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE MESSAGE. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CHIEF OF STATE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE08934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740178-0607
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740773/aaaackfl.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIKKIM
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SK, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005